

# JESUS FINAL TEACHINGS TO HIS FOLLOWERS

## The Upper Room Discourse (John chapters 13-17)

The events of the Upper Room happened the night before (Thursday) he was crucified (Friday). On Thursday night it was time for Jesus and His disciples to celebrate the Passover dinner. Jesus knew He had only hours left to live, so He wanted to put the time to good use. He had a Passover dinner with His disciples, instituted the Lord's Supper (i.e. communion), washed His disciples' feet, and provided extremely important final teachings. After the dinner event, Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane (note: some of the details surrounding the Upper Room event are found in Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26 and Luke 22:7-23).

Jesus covers a number of very important topics and teachings, such as love (love is mentioned 31 times in these chapters!), servanthood, Holy Spirit, unity, relationship with the world and so on.

### JOHN CHAPTER 14: "Comfort for a Troubled Heart"

Jesus had just revealed that one of His disciples would betray Him, that He would be leaving and the disciples could not follow yet, and that Peter would disown Jesus that very night – troubling words!

Jesus now shares comforting words and makes promises that we can literally bet our lives on!

**Verse 1-3:** *Jesus comforts by promising an eternal home in Heaven with Him.* Jesus provides comfort by promising to prepare a heavenly home (dwelling place) for His followers - and promises to take us there!

**Application Question:** How should our promised eternal, heavenly home affect our lives now?

**Verses 4-6:** *Jesus comforts by assuring that He is the way of salvation and connecting to God.* Are there many roads that lead to God/Heaven? Jesus makes it clear the answer is NO! Jesus is the only way of salvation and connecting with God the Father.

**Application Question:** Was Jesus telling the truth when He claimed to be the only way to God the Father? If yes, what does that mean to me – and the people I know today?

**Verses 7-11. *Jesus comforts by stating His deity.*** Jesus made it clear that He is part of the triune Godhead – and that He and God the Father are intimately connected.

**Application Question: What does the divinity of Jesus mean to me?**

**Verses 12-14: *Jesus comforts by telling that great results (fruit) will be available if we ask Him.*** Jesus tells us through faith, prayer and the power of the Father and Son we can bear much fruit – even more fruit that Jesus saw while He was on earth!

**Application Question: What can you and I do to see greater spiritual results (more fruit)?**

**Verses 15-31: *Jesus comforts by promising the Holy Spirit.*** Jesus provides a number of important teachings in these verses:

- Teaches us we show love for Him primarily through obedience to His teachings. [Our obedience to Christ emerges from our love for Him. We are not motivated to obey Christ by the law (I *must* do this); we are motivated by love (I *want* to do this)].
- Jesus submits to the Father and obeys Him
- Jesus words originate from the Father
- Our obedience draws us closer to Jesus and the Father
- Jesus lives within us
- Jesus gives us peace; we should not become troubled or afraid
- Satan has no hold on Jesus

- We learn about the Holy Spirit (the third member of the Trinity). The Holy Spirit:
  - Lives within us
  - “Counsels” (helps/encourages) us
  - Teaches us
  - Reminds us of the words of Jesus
  - Guides us in truth

**Application Questions: How am I doing in showing Jesus I really love Him? Does the Holy Spirit or my fleshly (sin) nature consistently control me?**